

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

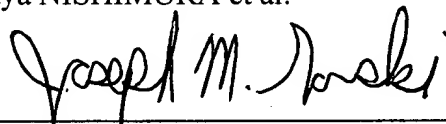
Claims 35-46 were rejected over a plurality of references for a variety of reasons, and claims 47-56 were allowed. Accordingly, without acquiescing to the appropriateness of the prior art rejections issued by the Examiner, and solely to further advance prosecution of this application, by the current Amendment claims 35-46 have been cancelled, whereby only allowed claims 47-56 remain. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Tatsuya NISHIMURA et al.

By: _____



Joseph M. Gorski
Registration No. 46,500
Attorney for Applicants

JMG/edg
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
February 4, 2005